

Appl. No.: 09/543,962

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 19 and 21 have been amended to overcome the claim objections noted by the Examiner. Claims 1, 19 and 28 have been amended to remove the rejection based on lack of antecedent basis.

Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle (6,510,432). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nothing in Doyle teaches or suggests Applicants' system as set forth in independent Claims 1, 19 or 28.

Claim 1, as amended, claims a system for acquiring information pertaining to a document including information, comprising: a meta-document including the document and a set of document service requests associated with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the information; and a scheduler for autonomously selecting a document service request from the set of document service requests, initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service request and integrating any results from the selected document service request into the document.

1) Doyle's system is an agent-based system. Doyle uses a search and archive agent 20 (see col. 4, lines 40-53) to search for data on a network. An agent-based system uses an agent, which is typically a software program that performs a service (in this case searching a network and archiving the results). In Doyle's system, documents are static, something that might be part of a search result. In contrast, Applicants' system employs a meta-document which includes a document and a set of document service requests associated with the document.

2) Doyle's system uses a data processing system 230 to carry out the agent-based system. Figure 2 of Doyle shows a data processing system 230, which may be configured as a client 12 or a server 15 in his system (see col. 6, lines 32-33). Data processing system 230 includes a processor 238, memory 235, input devices 232 and display 234. In contrast, Applicants' system employs a meta-document and a scheduler for autonomously selecting a document service request from the set of document service requests, initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service request and integrating any results from

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the selected document service request into the document.

3) Doyle's system archives received results in a memory. The search and archive agent 20 of Doyle's system also communicates with an archive program such as archive module 24 illustrated in Fig. 1. The archive module 24 receives retrieved content from the search and archive agent 20 and stores the content in a data repository such as the archive 26 illustrated in Fig. 1. The archive 26 may be a database or other data repository and may be located at the server 16 or may be remote from the server 16. Furthermore, the archive 26 may be also be located at the client 12 (see col. 4, lines 54-67). In contrast, Applicants' system integrates any results from the selected document service request into the document.

Independent Claim 19, as amended, claims a method for acquiring information pertaining to a document including information, comprising: associating a set of document service requests with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the information; and autonomously activating and managing the document service requests without user intervention, comprising: selecting a document service request from the set; initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service request; and integrating any results from the selected document service request into the document.

Doyle does not teach or suggest "associating a set of document service requests with the document". Similarly, Doyle does not teach or suggest "integrating any results from the selected document service request into the document".

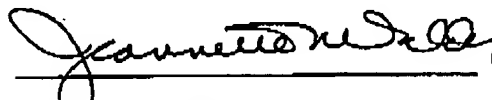
Independent Claim 28, as amended, claims a meta-document, comprising: a document including content information; a set of document service requests associated with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the content information as a starting point to obtain other information from a service provider pertaining to the information; and wherein, responsive to an autonomous scheduler, a document service request is selected from the set and communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service request is initiated and managed; and wherein, responsive to the autonomous scheduler, any results from the selected document service request are integrated into the document.

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As noted above, Doyle does not teach a meta-document; Doyle teaches an agent-based system which employs a data processing system. Doyle does not teach "results from the selected document service request are integrated into the document"; Doyle teaches storing results from the search and archive agent in an archive.

Claims 1, 19 or 28 are believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Claims 2-18, 20-27 and 29-37 depend from Claims 1, 19 and 28, respectively and are also believed to be allowable over the cited references. Reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,



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